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PROPOSALS FOR THE STREAMLINING OF REQUESTS FOR NATIONAL REPORTING

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its fourth meeting, in April 1996, the Commission on Sustainable Development, in paragraph 6 of its decision 4/8 on information provided by Governments and organizations, noted that in the period following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), States were being confronted with a growing number of reporting requirements in the field of sustainable development. In order to reduce duplication of work, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with interested States, to provide the Commission at its fifth session with proposals for streamlining national reporting in the field of sustainable development. The country profiles could be the initial step towards streamlining reporting requirements. The present report has been prepared in compliance with that request.

2. Concern at the increasing number of national reports that countries are required to submit has been growing and expressed in various forums. Member States have noted that they must prepare reports not only for the Commission but also to comply with the requirements of conventions, agreements reached at major conferences and global programmes of action. For all countries, the requests constitute a burden; but for countries with limited capacity, the burden has become overwhelming. It has also become apparent that some of the information being requested is duplicative and redundant.

I. SCOPE OF THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development

3. In pursuance to a decision taken by the Commission at its first session, in 1993, Governments and organizations were invited to submit information to the Commission in order to allow it to monitor progress at the national level in the implementation of Agenda 21.

4. In preparation for its special session to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, the General Assembly, in paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 50/113 of 20 December 1995, requested the Secretary-General to prepare country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned. Those profiles, which cover all chapters of Agenda 21, have been prepared and are available electronically as well as in hard copy, facilitating their use, as suggested by the Commission as a basis for streamlining.

B. Other reporting requirements

5. In the context of conventions, national information is requested with a view to monitoring compliance with implementation by parties to the conventions. The conventions requiring reporting on sustainable development issues include: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on

Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Requests vary from information on national legislation to highly technical and detailed data at the national level. Most of the conventions have or are formulating guidelines to assist countries in reporting, and most require the formulation of national strategies.

6. A number of extensive national reports have also been requested in the context of the preparation of major conferences held since UNCED, such as the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Those conferences have also resulted in requests for information on agreements reached and requests for follow-up to global plans of action. The Economic and Social Council has discussed the issue, and in its agreed conclusions 1995/1, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a standardized and simplified format that could be used by Governments in preparing information on a single subject or in clusters of subjects. In response to that request, the Secretary-General, in his report on the implementation of agreed conclusions 1995/1 (E/1996/59), noted that the General Assembly had requested the Secretariat to prepare country profiles for the special session to be held in June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. It was also noted that similar efforts would need to be pursued in following up the other conferences.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS/CONSULTATION PROCESS

7. In that context and in order to ascertain the extent of reporting requirements and identify overlaps, a survey of reporting requirements was undertaken (see annex I) and a reporting calendar prepared (see annex II). Inter-agency consultations were held on 5 and 6 December 1996, resulting in a report with proposals on streamlining for discussion at the ninth meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) (20 and 21 February 1997). Subsequently, as requested by the Commission, the responsible Vice-Chair of the Commission convened informal consultations with member States on 25 February 1997.

8. Throughout, the focus was on the streamlining of reporting processes, that is, on requests for information made to Governments, and not on the products of those requests, bearing in mind that reports themselves are generally prepared in response to legal commitments or legislative mandates. Given that scope, the exercise was limited to information requested within the context of the United Nations. There was, however, recognition of the fact that many countries are also required to submit reports in response to requests by regional and other non-United Nations organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. In addition, the focus was primarily on those reporting requirements that have emerged since UNCED.

III. CONCLUSIONS REACHED AND PROPOSALS FOR STREAMLINING

9. Based on the meetings and consultations described above, the proposals set out below are brought to the attention of the Commission for its consideration and decision.

10. Information relevant to Agenda 21 should be shared by requesting it in such a manner that Governments would not be requested to provide the same information to more than one United Nations organization or convention secretariat.

11. Information mandated from legally binding instruments, as well as by decisions and resolutions of intergovernmental bodies should continue to be provided to the respective secretariats. In addition, other United Nations system organizations that request national information should continue to do so. In both cases, the respective secretariats should make that information available, as appropriate for Agenda 21, to the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, for inclusion in future updated country profiles. Without prejudice to future decisions of the Commission, countries should not be requested to provide that information separately to the Commission unless they have not reported it previously (e.g., where reports are requested by a convention but a country is not a party to that convention). It was also agreed that, at all times, Governments have the discretion to report further to the Commission or to any other body, particularly where they find the process of reporting beneficial to their own strategic planning and participatory decision-making.

12. Organizations that have not yet done so should move towards making their information available electronically, on a country-by-country basis, in a manner that facilitates electronic linkages among the organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariats of the conventions. The streamlining exercise should be integrated with the programme of work related to the inter-agency exercise to improve access to United Nations system information on sustainable development. Further to earlier decisions of the Commission, and IACSD, such access is being provided through the creation of a system-wide sustainable development site on the World Wide Web in 1997, which will provide the linkages among relevant databases. Country files are intended to be part of the Web site (see annex III).

13. The reporting calendar (see annex II) should be updated annually and made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as electronically. The calendar was drafted with a view to identifying all major reporting requirements in the field of sustainable development through the year 2000. It is intended to demonstrate how the various reports requested interrelate, and to assist Governments in planning for all reports related to sustainable development. It has been circulated to all convention secretariats and task managers, but still requires completion.

14. A longer-term objective is also proposed for the consideration of the Commission, namely, movement towards the eventual creation of national sustainable development Web sites by each member State. Such Web sites would allow each country to post the data necessary as a part of its reporting

requirements to all relevant bodies, as well as other information to be determined by the country. Information could then be extracted from the national Web site electronically, thereby circumventing the need to request information. Such an approach would help link institutions and departments within a country; would provide all decision makers in that country with comprehensive information; and would facilitate the sharing of information internationally.

15. It is understood that some countries might need technical and/or financial assistance to accomplish this, as well as to build capacity in the area of reporting in general, and that should be kept in mind in the development of any such programme of work.

16. A related activitiy is the production of a manual on sustainable development reporting along the lines of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting.[1] The latter Manual is a reference guide for countries that contains general information on the reporting process and guidelines for reporting under six major human rights instruments. A similar manual for sustainable development could also serve as a training and reference guide for countries, and, inter alia, could contain the matrix, calendar and guidelines for reporting to the various conventions and other organizations. In the informal consultations with member States, it was suggested that the compilation and preparation of such a manual be considered.

IV. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK/ACTION

17. Based on the above, the Commission may wish to consider the following work programme:

(a) The Secretariat will continue its efforts to complete and update the information in the reporting matrix and calendar (see annexes I and II) so that they may be circulated and used as planning tools;

(b) The Secretariat will work together with other organizations in the United Nations system, as well as with the secretariats of the relevant conventions, to share information on sustainable development in such a way as to avoid duplication of requests to Governments for information;

(c) In order to share information, efforts will continue within the United Nations system to make information available electronically, on a country-by-country basis, in a manner that that facilitates electronic linkages among the organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariats of the conventions;

(d) The streamlining process will be linked to the parallel exercises of ensuring common access to United Nations system databases and establishing the sustainable development Web page;

(e) Consultations will be undertaken within the United Nations system, including with the system of resident representatives, to facilitate support for capacity-building at the national level for both the preparation of national

reports and their provision in an electronic format that is convenient for the country concerned. Donor countries are called upon to assist countries in that regard.

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIV.1.

Annex I

REPORTING MATRIX

The attached Matrix includes a list of the topics covered by Agenda 21, the corresponding intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations and convention secretariats that request such information on a regular basis, and both the periodicity and manner in which information is sought from Governments. Information reflects the reporting status as of March 1997, as provided by the relevant secretariats.

MATRIX ON REGULAR NATIONAL REPORTING RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

As of 3 Mar. 1997

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
2. Intl. Trade	WTO: Trade Policy Reviews			Biennial		
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 2	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit.
3. Poverty	Social Summit/ General Assembly	Reporting in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the Social Summit and the Decade for the Eradication of Poverty		to be decided (V)	National Reports	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 3	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit.
4. Consumption Patterns	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 4	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
5. Demography	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 5	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit

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Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
5. Demography (cont'd)	Commission of Population and Development	Follow-up to the ICPD Action Plan through reports on various topics 1998: Health and mortality, with emphasis on linkages between health and development, gender and age 1999: Population growth, structure and distribution with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development - 2000 - Quinquennial Review		yearly--voluntary	Questionnaires	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 6	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
6. Human Health	WHO	Progress made in the implementation of the Health for All by the Year 2000 strategy/evaluation of national strategies for HFA	complete coverage of Ch. 6 issues/partial coverage of health issues in Chs: 7, 9,18, 19,20,21	Voluntary --national reports due early 1997	National Reports based on Common framework to WHO	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 7	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
7. Human Settlements	HABITAT II	implementation of national action plans submitted to HABITAT II				
8. Integrating E&D in decision making	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 8	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
9. Atmosphere	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 9	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
	Vienna Convention:	Relevant scientific, technical socio-economic, commercial and legal information	Sc. Basis for decision-making(3)			
	UNFCCC: For Annex I Parties	National Communication of Annex I Parties [OECD and Parties with Economies in Transition] with detailed information on national circumstances, greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation policies and measures, emission projections including the country's energy consumption, energy intensity ratios and per capita GHG emission ratios.	Energy & Development Transportation Residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Agriculture, Forestry and Waste sectors	For Annex I Parties First Nat. Com. were submitted in 1994. 2nd Nat. Com. due by April 1997	Guidelines adopted by COP (based on IPCC.) Nat. Com. Submitted to the Secretariat	E-mail: Secretariat@UNFCCC.DE UNFCC's Website: HTTP://www.unfccc.de - info available on CD-ROM (bi-annual) - also in documents with symbol FCCC/... (ongoing)
	UNFCCC : For Non-Annex I Parties	each non-Annex I Party shall report a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol; general description of steps taken or envisaged towards UNFCCC goal and any other relevant information		Non-Annex I Parties [other than OECD and countries with economies in transition] must submit their report within 3 years of accession or upon financial wherewithal. LDCs at their discretion. First non-Annex I reports expected beginning April 1997	Same as for Annex 1 Parties	
	Montreal Protocol	not more than 9 months after the close of the calendar year, each country owes data on annual production, use, destruction, imports and exports of controlled substances	Preventing ozone depletion	Annual reporting; assessment every four years starting in 1990		

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
	ECE: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	International legally binding instrument to deal with problems of air pollution on a broad regional basis. It is a framework Convention for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution. It already provides a platform for four pollutant specific protocols and one for financing of consistent monitoring. Three other pollutant specific protocols are under preparation.	Transboundary Air Pollution on a regional basis. It has three main elements: collection of emission data, measurement of air and precipitation quality; and modelling of atmospheric dispersion. Information on national strategies and policies concerning air pollution abatement is provided by Parties to the Executive Body of the Convention.	Monitoring data is reported by all parties in June and December, and emission data in December of each year. Effects-oriented studies and mapping is done on an annual basis. Information on strategies and policies is reported annually.	Emission data and information on national strategies and policies, through a questionnaire; monitoring data is reported by participating national laboratories.	e-mail: Lars.Nordberg@unece.org Eija.Lumme@unece.org Internet: http://www.unic.org/unece/env/env_h.htm
10. Land Resources	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 10	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
11. Forests	FAO FAO FAO	National Forest Action Programmes Forest Products in Intl. Trade(FAOSTAT) Forest Resource Assessment	Sustaining Multiple roles of Forests Afforestation/Reforestation	Annual/Continuous Annual Every 5 Years	Partially automated FAOinfo.syst. Questionnaire-FAO Questionnaire & Natl. Forest Assessment Mechanisms	

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 11	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
12. Desertification	Convention to Combat Desertification	each party to establish national strategies/action programmes and to file reports on the implementation of the Convention with the COP. (Article 26)	National Strategies cover A21 programme areas	Affected Countries--annual review/annual reporting (pending decision of COP I-Sept 97)	Reports to CCD Secretariat	
		Developed country parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation of action programmes		annual reporting (pending decision of COP I--Sept 97)	Reports to CCD Secretariat	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 12	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
13. Mountain Development	FAO as Task Manager	a. Elaboration of natl. Mountain Agenda/Programmes at natl., sub-regional and regional levels b. Impl. of recommendations of regional and sub-regional consultations c. Follow-up with recommendations of NGO mtgs, if any d. Networking activities e. Reports on short-lived or disaster-related events	Conservation and development in mountain ecosystems	Two options a. According to CSD agenda b. Every 6 months	By FAO letter or questionnaire	

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 13	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
14. Agriculture	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 14	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
	FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)	FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources	Programme area G			
		I. International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources	Reporting on national measures taken/proposed concerning PGRFA (Art 11)	Annual	to FAO/CGRFA	
		II. Code of Conduct on Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer	Reporting on application of the Code	Periodic	to FAO/CGRFA	
		III. Report on State of the World's PGRFA	Reporting on: State of Resources, State of the Art, State of Capacity	Four-yearly, from 1999	to FAO/CGRFA/World Information and Early Warning System	
		IV. Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGRFA	Reporting on implementation of the GPA	CGRFA to "set formats for receiving progress reports from all parties concerned"	to FAO/CGRFA	
		The Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources	Programme area (h) Animal Genetic Resources	Periodic	to FAO/CGRFA	

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
15. Biodiversity	Convention on Biological Diversity (decision II/17)	each Party shall submit reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention, First report to focus on "General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use"	A21 programme areas covered	first reports to be submitted not later than 1 Jan. 1998 (dec. 111/9) The reports will be considered by the COP at its fourth meeting in May 1998.	Suggested Guidelines for National Reporting on the implementation of Article 6 are contained in the Annex to decision II/17	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 15	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
16. Bio-technology	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 16	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
17. Oceans	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 17	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
	LOS Convention	Legislation, EEZ, marine environment, marine resources; national data and coordinates	17 (a)-(f)	periodic--voluntary	note verbale	http://www.un.org/Dpets/los/
	Agreement on straddling fish stocks & GA Res	Conservation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks	17 (c)	biannual--voluntary	NV to member states and letter to others	" "
	Driftnet fishing-GA resolutions	Protection of marine resources	17 (c)	biannual--voluntary	note verbale	" "

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
	LC 1972 MARPOL 73/78:	Permits issued for the dumping of wastes and other matters at sea and on the disposal of wastes and other matters carried out to sea in each calendar year; statistics on violations and deficiencies in available facilities in ports for reception of wastes	Marine environmental protection partially covered	Annual	Reports to IMO	
18. Freshwater	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 18	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
	WMO/INFOHYDRO Hydrological Information Referral Service	Status of countries hydrological networks and data banks	Partial coverage of integrated water resources development, management and water resources assessment	Continuous updates	Questionnaires and specific requsts to national agencies	www.wmo.ch/web/homs/infohyd.html
	WHO/UNICEF: WASAMS System: Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring system	Information on water supply and sanitation coverage	Coverage of water supply and sanitation for all countries except E.Europe and developed countries	Biennial reporting--	Questionnaires	
	WMO/GRDC:Global Runoff Data Centre	Data on Streamflow	Water resources assessment; Impact of climate change on water resources	Continuous reporting	Requests to national agencies	www.wmo.ch/web/homs/grdchome.html
	UNEP/WHO GEMS/water	Reports on water quality	Water resources assessment, protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems	Continuous updating	requests to national agencies; data reports	http://www.cciw.ca/gems/intro.html
	FAO Aquastat	Partial data on water availability and use by country with emphasis on irrigation	Water and sustainable agriculutral development,water resources assessment	Irregular reporting (5 years)	Questionnaires	http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agl/aglhomep.htm
	UNESCO IHP	FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets)	regional coverage	Periodic -voluntary	Co-ordinating regional groups	

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
19. Toxic Chemicals	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 19	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
20. Hazardous Wastes	Basel Convention:	Information on i.a. transboundary movement of hazardous wastes; measures adopted to implement convention, available statistics on human health and environmental effects of generation, transport and disposal of hazardous wastes, on development of waste-reduction technologies and on sources of advice and expertise	A21 programme areas partially covered	Annual report; periodic reviews. Prior to the end of each calendar year parties shall provide info on the preceding year.	Guidelines	Database in development
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 20	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
21. Solid Wastes	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 21	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
22. Radioactive Wastes	IAEA	Info on radioactive waste management in Member States incl:Waste origins, nature and location of waste, storage and disposal facilities and national infrastructure	A21 programme areas covered			
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 22	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
23. Major Groups	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapters 23-32	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit

Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
24. Women	Commission on the Status of Women	Progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action		Voluntary national action plans due in late 1997 to prepare a synthesized review for CSW in 1998; comprehensive review of implementation of the Beijing Platform to take place in 2000	National Reports to DAWDPCSD; Secretariat has been asked to use information and data already provided by Govts to the maximum extent possible (CSW draft resolution II, sec. III para 3)	
	CEDAW	Situation in the country under each article of the convention and obstacles encountered and progress made in adhering to the Convention.		Mandatory--One year after ratification and every four years thereafter	Reporting Guidelines to the Secretariat of the Convention	
	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 24	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
25. Youth	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 25	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
26. Indigenous People	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 26	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
27. NGO's	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 27	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
28. Local Authorities	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 28	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
29. Workers	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 29	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
30. Business	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 30	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit

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Agenda 21 Chapter	Reporting requested by	Contents	Coverage re A21 programme areas	Periodicity and due date [Voluntary-(V) Mandatory-(M)]	How is info. Requested	Website--Internet address
31. Academia	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 31	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
32. Farmers	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 32	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
33. Financial Resources	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 33	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
34. Technology Transfer	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 34	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
35. Science	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 35	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
36. Education	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 36	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
37. Capacity-Building	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 37	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
38. International Institutions	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 38	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
39. Legal Instruments	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 39	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit
40. Information for Decision Making	CSD	Progress made in the implementation of Chapter 40	all	as per CSD agenda (V)	Guidelines	http://www.un.org/dpcsd/earthsummit

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Annex II

REPORTING CALENDAR

The attached calendar of reporting requirements through the year 2000 (see annex II), was drafted to demonstrate how the various reports requested interrelate in terms of timing and periodicity. It is hoped that such a calendar might assist Governments in planning for all reports related to sustainable development, and give the various secretariats a clear idea of when reports will be available.

CALENDAR OF REGULAR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO AGENDA 21
(DRAFT 4)

1997 **14 Feb. 1997**

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
			CSDV		Special Session						Reports to CSD VI due
			UNFCCC: Annex I parties–2nd Communication due Non Annex II Parties begin reporting[1]								National Actions Plans for implementation of Beijing Platform due for preparation of report to CSW
		National Reports on the third evaluation of the national strategies for Health for all by the year 2000 due								UNFPA Questionnaires on intl migration review due	
								Montreal Protocol Parties communications due			Basel Convention Parties reports for 1995 due[2]

[1] For non-Annex I parties reporting is required 3 years after the date of ratification or upon financial wherewithal

[2] Informaiton on designation of competent authorities and focal points, definitions of hazardous wastes, on decisions made not to consent totally or partially to the import of hazardous wastes and decision taken to limit or ban the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes should be reported immediately

1998

Jan	Feb	March	Apnl	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
			CSDVI								Reports to CSD VII due
			UNFCCC Annex I parties-updates due					CCD Parties to prepare reports for COP1[3]			
First national reports of CBD parties to be submitted no later than 1Jan 1998 (decIII/9)									UNFPA questionnai on population growth due		
								Montreal Protocol Parties yearly informati on due			Basel Convention Parties reports for 1995 due

[3] The periodicity and format of national reporting under article 26 of the CCD Convention to be decided at the COP I

1999

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
			CSDVII								Report to CSDVIII..due
			UNFCCC: Annex I parties– updates due								
									UNFPA questionnaire for quinquennial review due		Reports on progress made in the impl. of the Beijing Platform at the national level due for2000 review
								Montrreal Protocol Parties communicati on due			Basel Convention Parties reports for 1995 due

/...

2000

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
			CSDVIII								Report to CSDIX..due
			UNFCCC: Annex I parties--updates due								
								Montreal Protocol Parties communi-ations due			Basel Convention Parties reports for 1995 due

Annex III

COMMON ACCESS TO UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM INFORMATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEB SITE

Mandate

At its third session, in April 1995, the Commission on Sustainable Development:

> "Noted the importance of developing, among the organizations of the United Nations system, a common or compatible system of access to their respective databases, in order to share data fully, to streamline the collection and interpretation of data and to identify data gaps, for the purpose of providing more comprehensive and integrated data to decision makers at national, regional and international levels."

The Commission also invited the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD):

> "To refine measures for establishing such a common or compatible system and to report thereon to the Commission at its fourth session."

In January 1996, the first inter-agency meeting on common and compatible systems of access to data was organized in New York. Among the recommendations of that meeting was that a sustainable development home page be established on the World Wide Web, with "hot links" to the "value-added" databases to be identified by the Agenda 21 task managers.

At its seventh meeting, in February 1996, IACSD reviewed the recommendations of the above-mentioned inter-agency meeting and agreed that there was need for further action, bearing in mind the role of the Information Systems Coordinating Committee and the International Computing Centre, and invited the task managers for information for decision-making and Earthwatch (the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme, respectively), in consultation with focal points in concerned United Nations organizations, to consider, inter alia, how to address the issue of home pages related to sustainable development on the World Wide Web and the development of hot links between them.

The sustainable development home page: organization and content

The IACSD proposals were submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, in April/May 1996, at which time the Commission requested the Department, in cooperation with other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and within available resources to establish a sustainable development home page on the World Wide Web, with hot links to relevant databases throughout the United Nations system, as a means of facilitating access by countries to sources of information relevant to sustainable development.

The issue of how to operationalize that decision was further discussed at an inter-agency workshop on information for sustainable development and Earthwatch, organized at Geneva, in September 1996. The recommendations made at that meeting are set out below:

1. The Web site should contain:

   (a) Historical information on sustainable development;

   (b) Virtual regional and country files, and links to city files elsewhere;

   (c) Virtual indicator files;

   (d) A youth corner;

   (e) Key issues, including small island developing States;

   (f) Relevant documentation of the Commission and other bodies;

   (g) Information on partners in sustainable development;

   (h) Sustainable development activities.

   The Web site may also contain a section on new and emerging ideas, and another on mechanisms for user feedback.

2. All information should be completed with data and source tags to ensure that it is accurate and up to date.

3. Only official information would be posted on the Web site.

4. Every effort would be made to make information as accessible as possible, including providing an option to turn off graphics; establishing mirror sites in two or three different time zones; and continuing to make information available both in print and by other electronic means, such as gopher sites and e-mail.

5. The Web site would be created and maintained by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Certain core data, particularly for the regional and country files, would also be maintained by the Department, based on the country profiles being prepared for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997.

6. Consistent with the principles of subsidiarity, efficiency and economy, other information would be accessed through linkages to the Web sites of the other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Those organizations would have a responsibility to organize data on their home pages consistent with this approach.

The sustainable development Web site: current status

Funds were made available through the existing regular budget of the Department to support the work of two consultants, who are in the process of designing the Web site. The design will permit searching for information by country, issue or indicator. It will also, as stipulated, place high priority on linkages with other World Wide Web sites throughout the United Nations system.

A third consultant is being funded through the United Nations Development Programme. Working within the format that is being designed specifically for the United Nations system sustainable development Web site, it is the task of this consultant to populate the site with country data, as provided by Governments through their country profiles. As indicated, only official information will be included in the virtual country files.

The new United Nations system sustainable development Web site is intended to be installed and accessible in time for the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, although the loading of data and establishment of linkages may not be complete by that time.